2nd August 1933]

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"May I ask whether the Government think that the supply of water from the Panamarathupatti tank to the Salem Town has been a total failure?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Government are aware that the present arrangements for the supply of water are not adequate with the increase of population in Salem town. That is the reason for finding out a new source of supply."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether Government will be pleased to supply electric power at special rate to other municipalities?"

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know whether it is a fact that the Salem Municipality was willing to take over the water-works plant at Mettur if given to them free of cost?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I am not aware of that. As I have already stated, that plant is quite unsuitable and inadequate. Therefore, there is no use of considering that question."

Population of Salem town and the number of Depressed Class members.

* 101 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the total population of the Salem Municipal town is; and

(*b*) what the population of the depressed classes in the said town is?

A.—(*a*) 102,179.

(*b*) 5,791.

Resolution of Salem Municipal Council regarding the admission of untouchables in coffee clubs.

* 102 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) on what date the resolution of the Municipal Council of Salem advocating the admission of the so-called untouchables to the sweet-meat shops and coffee clubs was passed; and

(*b*) when the resolution was cancelled by the Government?

A.—(*a*) 17th February 1933.

(*b*) 23rd May 1933.

Petitions for and against the resolution of the Salem Municipal Council regarding admission of untouchables in coffee clubs.

* 103 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the resolution of the Salem Municipal Council advocating the admission of the so-called untouchables to sweet-meat shops and coffee clubs was objected to by Hotels' Proprietors' Association, and if so, when it was done;

(b) whether the petition of the Hotels' Proprietors' Association will be placed on the table of this House along with the report of the District Magistrate;

(c) what the total number of coffee clubs and sweetmeat shops in the Salem Municipality is;

(d) how many of the proprietors have signed the objection petition;

(e) when the Coffee Hotels' Proprietors' Association was formed;

(f) whether the District Magistrate of Salem consulted the so-called untouchables before he recommended the suspension of the resolution; and

(g) whether he received petitions in favour of the resolution of the municipal council from the public?

A.—(a) Yes, on the 17th March 1933.

(b) Yes (vide Appendix VI at pages 251–253 infra).

(c), (e), (f) & (g) The Government have no information.

(d) Forty-six.

Mr. M. Devadasan :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for information at least in respect of clause (c) of the question? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I shall consider the matter."

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—" May I know whether the Government examined all the items in the memorials and ascertained whether they are true? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" They have been forwarded to the Collector, and the Government have passed their order mainly on the recommendation of the District Magistrate."

Mr. M. Devadasan :—" Is it not necessary for the Collector to serve notices on the poor people who are affected by passing an order of this kind? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I think the District Magistrate did not think it necessary."

Mr. M. Devadasan :—" May I know whether the Government have any objection to asking the municipal council to amend the resolution requiring hotel-keepers to make arrangements for catering to all classes and communities? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" I think that if the resolution is modified to make separate arrangements for various communities, there may not be any insurmountable difficulty in enforcing it."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti :—" Do the Government think that coffee-hotels are public places? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have already said in reply to questions the other day that the Government had not yet had the opportunity of consulting the Advocate-General. My own opinion is that there is a difference between a public place and a coffee hotel."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN :—" Is there any case of the Harijans entering a coffee-hotel and causing any disturbance on that account?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have no information."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware that one municipal council passed a resolution that one of the conditions for the issue of a licence to coffee-hotels is that there should be no prohibition against the Adi-Dravidas and Panchamas entering them?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have no information."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the bye-law has been extended to European clubs also?" (Laughter).

Protest against the rescission of the resolution of the Salem Municipal Council re: admission of untouchables in coffee clubs.

* 104 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any protests have been received by the Government against their order suspending the resolution of the Salem Municipal Council advocating the admission of the so-called untouchables in sweetmeat shops and coffee clubs and if so, what was done thereupon by the Government?

A.—The only protest received is that from the Salem Municipal Council itself. It is under consideration.

Mr. M. DEVADASAN :—" May I know whether Government are justified in passing an order of this kind without consulting the wishes of the people?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" As already stated in answer to a previous question, the Government thought it desirable on the information available."

Mr. M. DEVADASAN :—" By passing an order of this kind, do they not encourage caste people to oppress the depressed classes?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" The Government have absolutely no such intention."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—" With reference to the answer given to the question, will the Government be pleased to place on the table of the House the result of their consideration?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" Yes, Sir."